

Wilton

Cent.

The annual report of the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. E. J. Marmion) upon the health and sanitary condition of the Council's district was submitted and read by the Clerk, as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—In presenting my report of the health of Milton for the year 1898, I have to inform you that, notwithstanding the occurrence of a severe type of influenza during the early months, and the prevalence of measles and diphtheria during the later months, and in spite of important sanitary questions pressing for settlement, the health of the town is satisfactory.

"Deaths.—The number of deaths for the year was 169; of these 111 occurred in the town and 58 in the Union Infirmary. The death rate per thousand, excluding the Workhouse, was 18.5. Including those inhabitants of Milton who died in the Workhouse it was 22. On examining the death tables it will be noticed that there is a marked increase of deaths under one year and over 45 years, the cause in the former case being principally due to immaturity and gastro-intestinal affections, probably due to improper feeding, and in the latter case, of aged people, to the number of cases of bronchitis and pneumonia, following influenza, affections very fatal to elderly people.

"Births.—The births for the year numbered 205

"Zymotic Diseases.—Forty-six cases of zymotic disease were notified during the year as follows:—Scarlet fever 12, enteric fever 10, diphtheria 19, erysipelas 3, puerperal fever 1, continued fever 1. Influenza and measles are not required to be notified. The cases were all thoroughly investigated, the cause sought for, and disinfection carried out.

"Influenza of a severe type visited us in the early months of the year. In most cases severe pulmonary and gastro-intestinal complications were present, and the mortality among the aged and weakly was very great. I regret to add that little more is known about this modern scourge, save that it varies greatly in its types and that the authorities attribute it to a germ poisoning of the nervous system.

"Scarlet Fever.—Many cases of a mild type were scattered throughout the town during the middle months of the year. Owing to the Infectious Hospital being unable to take in cases, many were treated in their own houses. This is a decided danger to health, as experience shows that it is practically impossible to efficiently isolate cases in ordinary cottage homes. It is to be hoped that now the Hospital has been enlarged a similar sanitary misfortune will not recur. I am glad to say that no deaths were recorded from this disease.

"Measles and Whooping Cough.—So many cases occurred during the later part of the year that it was deemed necessary to close the Infant Board Schools for a short time, which partially stayed the progress of the disease. The only way of preventing the spread of this disease among school children that I can suggest is prompt notification of the earlier cases, especially by the school authorities.

"Diphtheria has been unduly prevalent, especially during the latter part of the year, and I regret to say that in many cases the type was very severe, several fatal cases being recorded. Investigation showed that, though in a few cases the sanitary surroundings were faulty, in the majority of cases the cause was contact with infected patients, in the case of children the schools being largely responsible. No suspicion as a rule could be attached to the water or milk. It should be made imperative that children who have suffered from this disease, or who come from infected houses, should, on returning to school, produce a medical certificate stating that the throat, nose, and ears are in a healthy state.

"Enteric Fever.—A comparatively small number of cases occurred during the year, some being very mild, others of a more severe type. Most of the cases were treated at the Infectious Hospital. The cause in one or two cases was assigned to drinking polluted water. In others the cause was not so manifest, but I strongly suspect that in some instances it could fairly be attributed to the polluted state of the surface soil surrounding the dwellings. It is an undoubted fact that, where water, muck, &c., can be excluded as causes, enteric fever still clings to localities polluted by organic matter.

"Phthisis.—This disease (as is all too well known) causes many deaths. This is all the more lamentable, as it has been recently stated publicly that it is essentially a preventable disease. The disease is caused by a germ, the tubercle bacillus making its way into the system. These germs are found in great abundance in the sputum of consumptive patients. If this is allowed to remain on floors or pavements, it becomes dried and pulverised, and being dispersed as dust is apt to disseminate the disease. All expectoration from consumptive patients should be buried. It is encouraging to know that sunshine and pure air are inimical to the life of the tubercle bacillus.

"Inspections.—The town generally has been inspected throughout the year. The Sanitary Inspector's journal shows that 123 visits were paid, connected with inspections, blocked drains, overflowing closets, &c. The cowsheds, slaughter-houses, and bakeries have been systematically inspected; they were generally found cleanly, well lime-whited, and ventilated.

"Dairies.—The dairies are kept in a satisfactory state. I should add that the cows in the neighbourhood are for the most part of the day in the meadows, and are only stalled at night or in very bad weather. The veterinary surgeons inform me that no case of tuberculosis has occurred in cattle during the year.

"Lodging-Houses.—These have been strictly supervised and inspected; they are kept in fairly good order. No case of over-crowding was reported.

"Offensive Trades.—The tallow manufactories and fellmonger's premises were visited during the year; they were found cleanly, well whitewashed, and in good order. Disinfectants had been plentifully used. Complaints were received during the summer months about the smells, but I feel convinced that the owners, by carrying out suggestions made, and by the free use of disinfectants, do their utmost to minimise this nuisance. It should be borne in mind that, unless these trades are prohibited in the town altogether, this nuisance cannot be altogether abated.

"Wharves.—The manure wharves have been repeatedly inspected. The by-laws are, I am afraid, only partially carried out, if not in many instances altogether evaded. Many complaints have been received about the offensive smells caused by the carting and dropping of manure through the town. This is no doubt a very great nuisance, especially during the hot weather, and can only be remedied by your authority in acquiring power from the Local Government Board to allow you to close the manure wharves during the hot months of the year. From information I have received I understand that the farming interest would in no way suffer. Notice had to be taken during the year of "rough stuff" that was deposited too near the public road in several brickfields. On representing the matter to the brickmasters they promptly ordered the nuisance to be abated.

"Schools and Houses.—Two new schools have been recently erected; they are well built, spacious and airy, well lighted, and in every way an improvement on the older buildings. Many new houses have been built during the year; they have all been thoroughly inspected and found to answer all modern sanitary requirements. Many of the old houses in the town require material repairs; unless this is shortly done some will soon be unfit for human habitation. As the welfare of the community is intimately connected with sanitary homes, it is the duty of owners to see that their houses are kept in good repair, and the duty of tenants to keep them in a clean and orderly condition.

"Smoke Nuisance.—Several complaints have been made about this nuisance; it certainly has been very trying during the last year. The clouds of black smoke that issue from the tall chimneys in the town not only at times obscure the sunlight, but by polluting the air tend in my opinion greatly to aggravate, if they do not increase, respiratory diseases.

"Future Sanitary Measures.—Two important and urgent sanitary problems still remain to be solved, i.e., the cleaning and purification of the Creek and the disposal of the sewage. With respect to the Creek I would only say that it remains in its filthy condition. It is to be hoped that the Bill for the formation of a Conservancy Board will be sanctioned by Parliament, as provisions for the cleansing of the waterway must necessarily be included, and there will then be a prospect of this long standing nuisance being abated. Such a Bill is not likely to be opposed by people in Milton, as it cannot but enhance the shipping and commercial prosperity of the town. The disposal of the sewage by the septic tank system (which I understand you have definitely decided to adopt, subject to the consent of the Local Government Board) has much in its favour. It is a natural process and comparatively an economical one. It is true it is still on its trial, but all the later reports appear to be very satisfactory. In conclusion, I would like to thank the inhabitants for information received on sanitary matters during the year, and to impress on all that it is not by the energies of the few, but by the co-operation of the many that we can

our town into a

for its supply of the indispensable element, h, by the way, is so precious that it is used over over again after undergoing purification. Then coal! What do you think of one of these huge nesses using more than 30,000 tons every year! acreage of the ground on which one of these "works" stands equals that of some of our ler towns.

THE Lord Chamberlain states that the list for the entation of ladies at her Majesty's Drawing n, announced for the 24th instant, is now com-

THE Scotch coal trade during last year was largely fited, by the strike of Welsh miners. The ship- s from Scotch ports during 1898 amounted to ,202 tons, or 1,700,000 tons more than in 1897. E Corporation of the City of London have now lectric arc lights in use for illuminating the main ts. The total number of lamp failures during ast year was 1466.

THE worn-out uniforms of the British Army, when bring back into the War Office treasury close £30,000 a year.

LIUM CATHARTICUM PILLS, digestive, corrective, greeably aperient, 9½d., 13½d. Of all Chemists.

STRESS: "I suppose there is no use in asking you y to dinner." Caller: "Well, no, not in that

'LINSEED COMPOUND' (Trade Mark) for Coughs olds of proven efficacy, 13½d. Sold by Chemists only.

WHAT'S a terrible noise in the nursery, Molly," ne mistress. "What's the matter? Can't you the baby quiet?" "Shure, ma'am," replied y, "I can't keep him quiet unless I let him make se

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He paused and looked round once again. He was surprised at his own boldness; he was amazed at its result. The fear that had pressed down upon the men around him had suddenly lifted, and in its stead a fierce rage had taken possession of them. They were angry with themselves for having allowed themselves to be frightened. They were angry with the man who had, as it were

ological Society of London" appears a report by Mr. Boulenger on the fishes collected by Mr. J. E. S. Moore, the leader of this expedition, from Lake Tanganyika. According to Mr. Moore, there are two aunas in the lake, one a normal fresh-water one, and another evidently of a marine origin. This was proved by the study of the splendid collection of molluscs which he obtained. But the same fact is

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